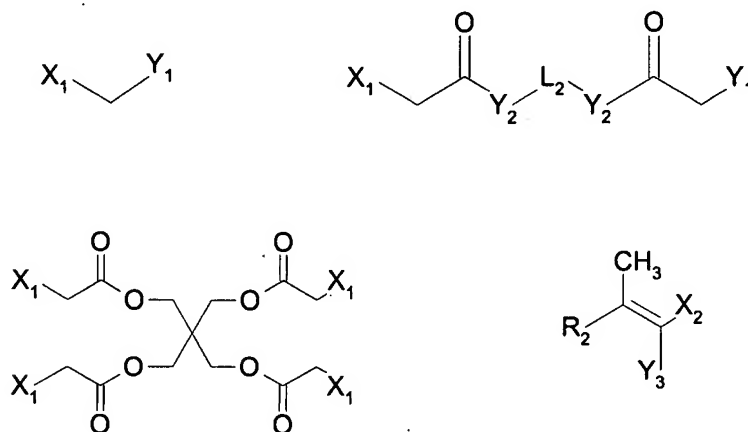




## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

44. (Withdrawn) A polyester composition comprising:

- (a) a polyester;
- (b) at least one additive that is capable of reacting with acetaldehyde to form a new carbon-carbon bond, said additive being selected from the group consisting of acyclic active methylene compounds represented by the following formulae:



wherein  $X_1$  and  $Y_1$  each denote an electron withdrawing group and are independently selected from aryl, carbamoyl, cyano, heteroaryl, nitro, sulfamoyl,  $R_1$ -CO-,  $R_1$ O-CO-,  $R_1$ NHCO-,  $(R_1)_2$ N-CO-, HO- $L_2$ -NHCO-,  $(HO-L_2)_2$ N-CO-,  $R_1$ -O $_2$ S-,  $R_1$ -NHO $_2$ S-, and  $(R_1)_2$ NO $_2$ S-, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from C $_1$ -C $_{22}$ -alkyl, substituted C $_1$ -C $_{22}$ -alkyl, C $_3$ -C $_8$ -cycloalkyl, substituted C $_3$ -C $_8$ -cycloalkyl, C $_3$ -C $_8$ -alkenyl, C $_3$ -C $_8$ -alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl; wherein  $L_2$  is a divalent linking group selected from C $_1$ -C $_{22}$ -alkylene, C $_3$ -C $_8$ -cycloalkylene, C $_1$ -C $_6$ -alkylene-cyclohexylene-C $_1$ -C $_6$ -alkylene, C $_2$ -C $_4$ -alkylene-O-arylene-O-C $_2$ -C $_4$ -alkylene, arylene and  $-(CH_2CH_2-L_3)_{1-3}-CH_2CH_2-$ , wherein  $L_3$  is selected from -O-, -S-, -SO $_2$ -, and -N( $R_1$ )-;

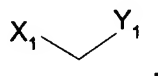
wherein  $Y_2$  is selected from -O-, -NH- and -N( $R_1$ )-;

wherein  $X_2$  and  $Y_3$  are independently selected from cyano, C $_1$ -C $_6$ -alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and C $_1$ -C $_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl;

wherein  $R_2$  is selected from aryl and heteroaryl; and

(c) one compound known to catalyze the reaction between an acidic methylene and an aldehyde selected from the group consisting of hindered amine light stabilizers (HALS), amino acids, alkali metal salts of mono- and poly-carboxylic acids, tertiary amines, secondary amines and substituted piperidines and their acid addition salts, when both  $X_1$  and  $Y_1$  are selected from the group consisting of  $R_1$ -CO-, or  $R_1$ O-CO- and  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl, substituted  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; or when  $Y_2$  is -O- and  $X_1$  is  $R_1$ -CO-.

45. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



wherein  $X_1$  and  $Y_1$  each denote an electron withdrawing group and are independently selected from aryl, cyano, heteroaryl, nitro, sulfamoyl,  $R_1$ -CO-,  $R_1$ O-CO-,  $R_1$ NHCO-,  $(R_1)_2$ N-CO-, HO- $L_2$ -NHCO-, (HO- $L_2$ ) $_2$ N-CO-,  $R_1$ -O $_2$ S-,  $R_1$ -NHO $_2$ S-, and  $(R_1)_2$ NO $_2$ S-, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl, substituted  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl; wherein  $L_2$  is a divalent linking group selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkylene,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkylene,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylene-cyclohexylene- $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylene,  $C_2$ - $C_4$ -alkylene-O-arylene-O- $C_2$ - $C_4$ -alkylene, arylene and  $-(CH_2CH_2-L_3)_{1-3}-CH_2CH_2-$ , wherein  $L_3$  is selected from -O-, -S-, -SO $_2$ -, and -N( $R_1$ )-

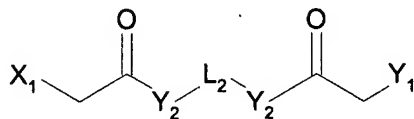
wherein  $Y_2$  is selected from -O-, -NH- and -N( $R_1$ )-

wherein  $X_2$  and  $Y_3$  are independently selected from cyano,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl; and

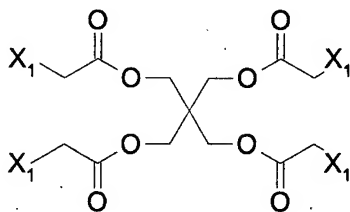
wherein  $R_2$  is selected from aryl and heteroaryl.

46. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 45 wherein  $X_1$  is  $R_1$ -CO-, and  $Y_1$  is  $R_1$ NHCO-, wherein  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl.

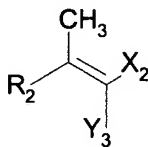
47. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



48. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



49. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



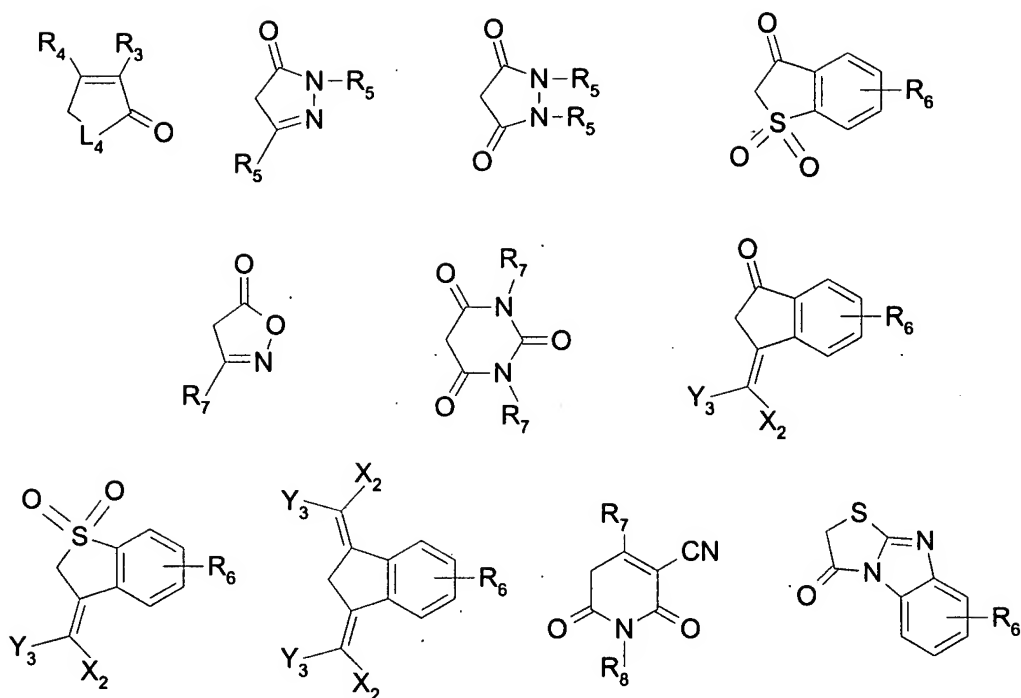
50. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein Y<sub>2</sub> is -O-.

51. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein Y<sub>2</sub> is -NH-.

52. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein Y<sub>2</sub> is -N(R<sub>1</sub>)-.

53. (Currently Amended) A polyester composition consisting essentially of comprising:

- (a) a polyester; and
- (b) at least one additive that is capable of reacting with acetaldehyde to form a new carbon-carbon bond, said additive selected from the group consisting of cyclic active methylene compounds represented by the following formulae:



wherein  $R_3$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl, cyano, heteroaryl;

wherein  $R_4$  is selected from aryl and heteroaryl;

wherein  $R_5$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl and aryl;

wherein  $R_6$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy, halogen, cyano,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkanoyloxy, aroyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylthio,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl,  $-NHCOR_9$ ,  $-NH SO_2 R_9$ ,  $-CONHR_9$ ,  $-CON(R_9)_2$ ,  $-SO_2NHR_9$  and  $-SO_2N(R_9)_2$ ; wherein  $R_9$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl and aryl;

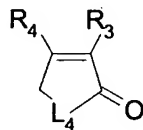
wherein  $R_7$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, and aryl;

wherein  $X_2$  and  $Y_3$  are independently selected from cyano,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl;

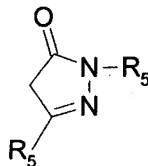
wherein  $R_8$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -alkynyl and aryl; and

wherein  $L_4$  is selected from  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$  and  $-N(R_{10})-$ , wherein  $R_{10}$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl and aryl.

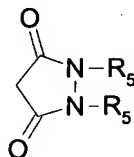
54. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



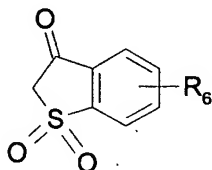
55. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



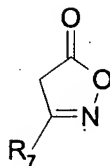
56. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



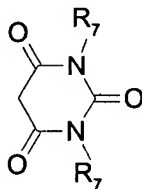
57. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



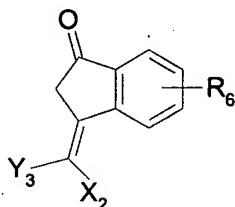
58. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



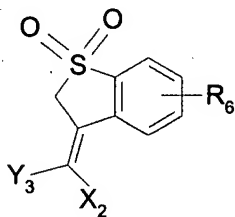
59. (Previously presented) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



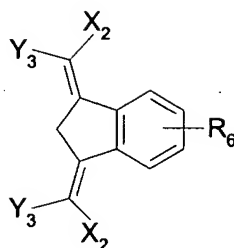
60. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



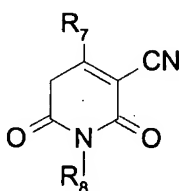
61. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



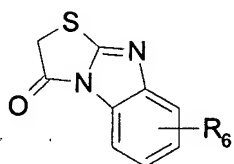
62. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



63. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



64. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



65. (Previously presented) The polyester composition of claims 44 or 53 further comprising 1-99 weight percent of a post-consumer recycled material.

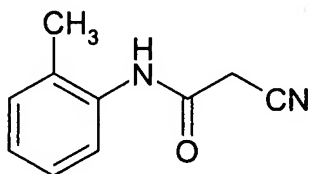
66. (Previously presented) The polyester composition of claim 44 or 53 further comprising 0.01 to 10 weight percent of at least one colorant and/or ultraviolet light absorbing compound in the polyester.

67. (Previously presented) The polyester composition of claim 44 or 53 further comprising an infrared absorbing compound selected from carbon black, black iron oxide, reduced antimony metal catalyst residues, metal phthalocyanines, metal naphthalocyanines, and squaraines.

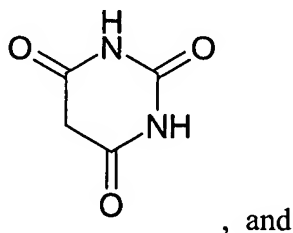
68. (Previously presented) The polyester composition of claim 53 further comprising one compound known to catalyze the reaction between an acidic methylene and an aldehyde selected from the group consisting of hindered amine light stabilizers (HALS), amino acids, alkali metal salts of mono- and poly-carboxylic acids, tertiary amines, secondary amines.

69. (Previously presented) The polyester composition of claim 44 or 53 further comprising a non-sticking additive selected from lubricants, inorganic mineral composites, and talc.

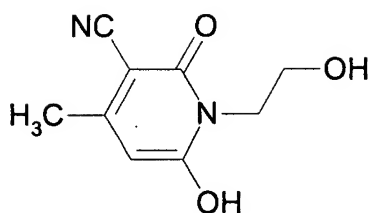
70. (Withdrawn) The polyester composition of claim 44 wherein the additive is a compound having the formula:



71. (Previously presented) The polyester composition of claim 53 wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of compounds having the formula:



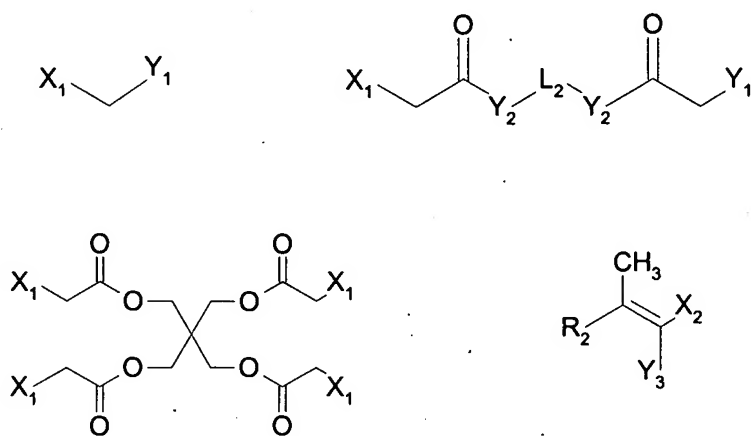




72. (Withdrawn) A shaped or formed article comprised of the composition of claim 44.

73. (Withdrawn) A shaped or formed article comprised of the composition of claim 53.

74. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing the amount of acetaldehyde in a polyester composition, which comprises melt-blending into the polyester composition at least one additive that is capable of reacting with acetaldehyde to form a new carbon-carbon bond, said additive selected from the group consisting of cyclic active methylene compounds represented by the following formulae:



wherein  $X_1$  and  $Y_1$  each denote an electron withdrawing group and are independently selected from aryl, carbamoyl, cyano, heteroaryl, nitro, sulfamoyl,  $R_1$ -CO-,  $R_1$ O-CO-,  $R_1$ NHCO-,  $(R_1)_2$ N-CO-, HO- $L_2$ -NHCO-,  $(HO-L_2)_2$ N-CO-,  $R_1$ -O<sub>2</sub>S-,  $R_1$ -NHO<sub>2</sub>S-, and  $(R_1)_2$ NO<sub>2</sub>S-, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl, substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl, substituted C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl; wherein  $L_2$  is a divalent linking group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkylene, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkylene,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene-cyclohexylene-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylene-O-arylene-O-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylene, arylene and -(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-L<sub>3</sub>)<sub>1-3</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein L<sub>3</sub> is selected from -O-, -S-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, and -N(R<sub>1</sub>)-;

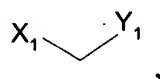
wherein Y<sub>2</sub> is selected from -O-, -NH- and -N(R<sub>1</sub>)-;

wherein X<sub>2</sub> and Y<sub>3</sub> are independently selected from cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl;

wherein R<sub>2</sub> is selected from aryl and heteroaryl; and

(c) one compound known to catalyze the reaction between an acidic methylene and an aldehyde selected from the group consisting of hindered amine light stabilizers (HALS), amino acids, alkali metal salts of mono- and poly-carboxylic acids, tertiary amines, secondary amines and substituted piperidines and their acid addition salts, when both X<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>1</sub> are selected from the group consisting of R<sub>1</sub>-CO-, or R<sub>1</sub>O-CO- and R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl, substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl, substituted C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; or when Y<sub>2</sub> is -O- and X<sub>1</sub> is R<sub>1</sub>-CO-.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74 wherein the additive is a compound having the general formula:



wherein X<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>1</sub> each denote an electron withdrawing group and are independently selected from aryl, cyano, heteroaryl, nitro, sulfamoyl, R<sub>1</sub>-CO-, R<sub>1</sub>O-CO-, R<sub>1</sub>NHCO-, (R<sub>1</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N-CO-, HO-L<sub>2</sub>-NHCO-, (HO-L<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N-CO-, R<sub>1</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>S-, R<sub>1</sub>-NHO<sub>2</sub>S-, and (R<sub>1</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S-, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl, substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl, substituted C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl; wherein L<sub>2</sub> is a divalent linking group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkylene, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkylene, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene-cyclohexylene-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylene-O-arylene-O-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylene, arylene and -(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-L<sub>3</sub>)<sub>1-3</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein L<sub>3</sub> is selected from -O-, -S-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, and -N(R<sub>1</sub>)-;

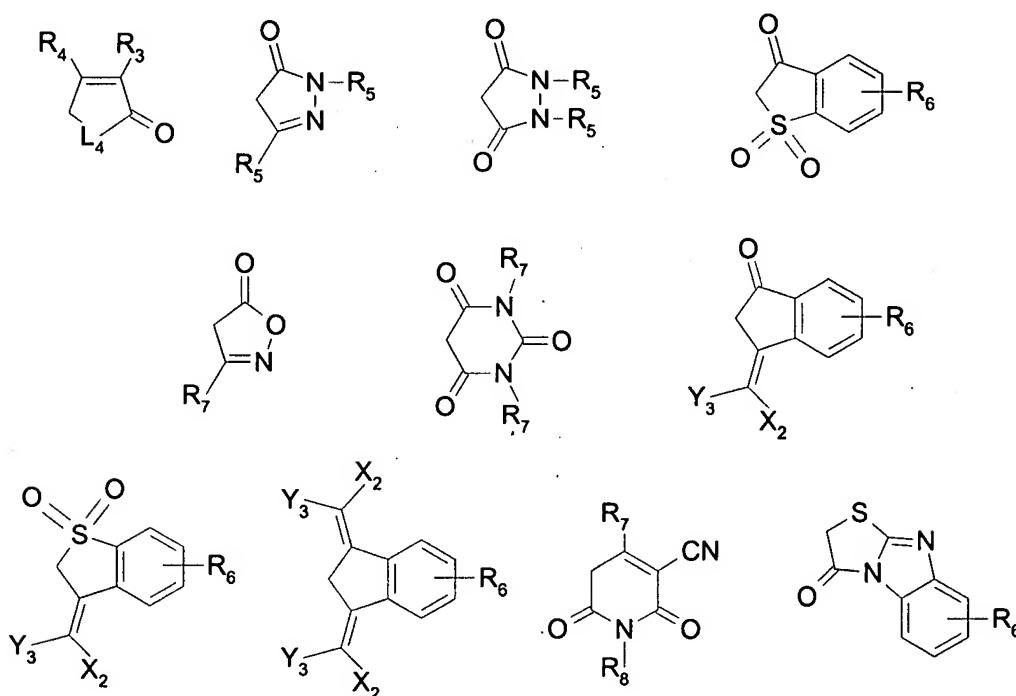
wherein Y<sub>2</sub> is selected from -O-, -NH- and -N(R<sub>1</sub>)-;

wherein X<sub>2</sub> and Y<sub>3</sub> are independently selected from cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl; and

wherein  $R_2$  is selected from aryl and heteroaryl.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 75 wherein  $X_1$  is  $R_1\text{-CO-}$ , and  $Y_1$  is  $R_1\text{NHCO-}$ , wherein  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of  $C_1\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkyl}$ , substituted  $C_1\text{-C}_{22}\text{-alkyl}$ , aryl, and heteroaryl.

77. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing the amount of acetaldehyde in a polyester composition, which comprises melt-blending into the polyester composition at least one additive that is capable of reacting with acetaldehyde to form a new carbon-carbon bond, said additive selected from the group consisting of cyclic active methylene compounds represented by the following formulae:



wherein  $R_3$  is selected from  $C_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxycarbonyl}$ , cyano, heteroaryl;

wherein  $R_4$  is selected from aryl and heteroaryl;

wherein  $R_5$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl and aryl;

wherein  $R_6$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxy, halogen, cyano,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkanoyloxy, aroyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylthio,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl, carbamoyl, sulfamoyl,  $-NHCOR_9$ ,  $-NHSO_2R_9$ ,  $-CONHR_9$ ,  $-CON(R_9)_2$ ,  $-SO_2NHR_9$  and  $-SO_2N(R_9)_2$ ; wherein  $R_9$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl and aryl;

wherein  $R_7$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, and aryl;

wherein  $X_2$  and  $Y_3$  are independently selected from cyano,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl;

wherein  $R_8$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -alkynyl and aryl; and

wherein  $L_4$  is selected from  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$  and  $-N(R_{10})-$ , wherein  $R_{10}$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ -cycloalkyl and aryl.